

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9076

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3649

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CORE GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 1976

SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO QUESTION OF DEFERRAL TACTIC COVERED  
REFTEL, KOREA CORE GROUP SEPT. 8 EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON GENERAL  
LOBBYING EFFORT, DISCUSSED POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE PANMUNJON INCI-  
DENT ON THE UNGA ATTMOOSPHERE FOR THE KOREA ITEM, AND AGREED TO

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INITIATE COORDINATED VOTE ESTIMATION EFFORT. END SUMMARY

1. LOBBYING EFFORT: ROK REP REPORTED THE DECISION TO COSPONSOR BEEN FORMALLY CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT. ALSO REPORTED THAT COLOMBIA FOR THE TIME-BEING CONSIDERED IT WISE NOT TO COSPONSOR, REMAINING FREE FOR SUPPORTIVE WORK AND POSSIBLE DECISION TO COSPONSOR AT LATER STAGE. TALLY OF COSPONSORS FOR OPPOSING ITEMS WAS REPORTED TO STAND AT 33 FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION (BENIN WAS NOT YET FORMALLY REPORTED AS HAVING COSPONSORED) AND 20 FOR THE FRIENDLY ITEM. ROK REPORTED THAT THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS IN BARBADOS APPEARED LIKELY TO BRING LITTLE CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. THEIR RECENT SOUNDINGS THERE INDICATED COSPONSORSHIP WAS NOT A SURE PROSPECT, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT OF SUPPORT FOR THE ROK POSITION. CANADA WAS AWAITING REPORT FROM ITS APPROACH SCHEDULED AFTER BARBADOS ELECTIONS.

2. EFFECTS OF PANMUNJOM INCIDENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED AGENDA, ROK CHAIRMAN CALLED FOR COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT ON UNGA ATMOSPHERE. CANADA VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD OFF WITH FORTHRIGHT JUDGEMENT OF OTTAWA THAT THE INCIDENT HAD IN FACT GIVEN NORTH KOREA ADDITIONAL PROPAGANDA AMMUNITION. THE STRONG US RESPONSE TO THE PROVOCATION, NECESSARY THOUGH IT OBVIOUSLY WAS, HAD ONLY FUELED THE HOSTILE PROPAGANDA PLAY WITH THE INCIDENT. OTTAWA NOTED THAT THE INCIDENT APPEARED TO INVOLVE PRIMARILY AMERICANS AND NORTH KOREANS, NOT SOUTH KOREANS, A FACT THAT IMPRESSED MANY IN THE WORLD WITH VALIDITY OF NORTH KOREAN INSISTENCE ON DEALING ONLY WITH THE US. THE OCCURENCE OF THE INCIDENT AT JUST THIS JUNCTURE HAD THE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING INCLINATIONS TOWARD RAISING KOREA BACK ON THE LIST OF PRIORITY QUESTIONS REQUIRING DEBATE IN THE GA. OTTAWA BELIEVES THAT THE DPRK ACCURATELY SENSED THE BOREDOM OF UN MEMBER WITH THE KOREAN ISSUE AND HAS EFFECTIVELY USED IT, IN SUMMARY, THE INCIDENT WAS NOT A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. CANADA ALSO OBSERVED THAT CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION INEVITABLY SIZED UP THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AGAINST THE COINCIDENTAL NEWS OF THE SENTENCING BY THE ROKG OF 18 OPPOSITION FIGURES. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC REACTIONS, ANY POSITIVE EFFECTS BROUGHT BY THE MURDEROUS INCIDENT IN THE DMZ WERE CANCELLED OUT BY THE STRONG FEELINGS CONCERNING CIVIL RIGHTS WITHIN THE ROK.

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3. ROK REPRESENTATIVE ACCEPTED THE CANADIAN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AND APOLOGIES FOR THE BLUNT FORMULATION, THE FIRST TIME IN VORE GROUP HISTROY THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE HAS SURFACED IN OPEN DISCUSSION. CHAIRMAN WENT ON TO DISCUSS RECENT SIGNS OF TACTICAL MODERATION IN NORTH KOREAN APPROACH TO THE UNGA PROBLEM (AGREEMENT ON SEPARATION OF ZONES, PARTIAL APOLOGIES FOR KINNINGS; ETC.). IN ROK VIEW NK MAY BE TROUBLED BY THE SUCCESSION STRUGGLE, THE PRESSURE OF THE NON-ALINGED MOVEMENT,

AND STAGNANT ECONOMIC SITUATION. NK HAS NOT CHANGED ITS STRIPS, HOWEVER, AND ITS DRIVE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ITS MEASURE IN UNGA WILL CONTINUE UNABATED.

4. US REP OFFERED PERSONAL VIEW THAT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT BROUGHT SOME STRONG REACTIONS IN THE WORLD, AND THE US/ROK FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT APPEARED TO GAIN CONSIDERABLE CREDENCE IN MANY CIRCLES, SOME SURPRISING. NONETHELESS, THE PLAYOUT OF THE REACTIONS IN THE UN CONTEXT APPEAR LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER; PRECISE VOTE EFFECT ESTIMATES ARE IN ANY EVENT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

5. LOBBYING AND VOTE ESTIMATES: GROUP AGREED, PENDING OUTCOME OF SOUNDING EFFORT LAUNCHED REFTTEL, IT WOULD BE BEST TO HALT INTENSIVE EFFORTS IN NEW YORK AND POSTS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COSPONSORES. MAJORITY OPINION BASED PRIMARILY ON FEAR THAT, IF DEFERRAL BECAME OUR TACTIC, THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF SIGNALS MIGHT OFFEND SOME WHOSE ARMS WE HAD RECENTLY TWISTED IN SUPPORT OF COSPONSORSHIP PLEA. IT WAS AGREED THAT, EVEN THOUGH WE SHOULD DESIST MOMENTARILY ON COSPONSORSHIP LOBBYING, WE STILL SHOULD CONTINUE USUAL SUPPORTIVE TALK IN CAPITALS WHEN OCCASIONS AND TARGETS PRESENT THEMSELVES. ROK AGREED TO COMPILE A ROUGH INITIAL VOTE ESTIMATE, ON BASIS OF WHICH GROUP WOULD COMMENCE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARATION OF COORDINATED VOTE ESTIMATES AS IN THE PAST.

6. OTHER: IN CONTEXT OF THE DISCUSSION OF PANMUNJOM INCIDENT, ROK CHAIRMAN VOLUNTERED A REPORT CONCERNING SEOUL'S OBSERVATIONS OF SEVERAL RECENT PATTERNS OF NORTH KOREAN BEHAVIOR THAT HAVE APPEARED PUZZLING. OFFERING NO ANSWER, ROK NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA IS IN THE MIDST OF A COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT; HAS STOPPED RECEIVING FOREIGN ENVOYS (SIC); HAS HALTED THE FOREIGN TRAVEL OF NORTH KOREAN ENVOYS; INSTRUCTED NORTH KOREAN MISSIONS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE TO CANCEL ALL SCHEDULED CEREMONIALS FOR NORTH KOREAN NATIONAL DAY; ASKED A NUMBER OF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN TO LEAVE NORTH KOREA; AND HAS HALTED RENEWAL OF FOREIGNERS' VISAS. BENNETT

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